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Earthcycle Packaging receives European certification for compostability

Vancouver, BC – Earthcycle, the award-winning developer of certified* compostable and renewable packaging, has passed rigorous European testing, by German-based DIN CERTCO, proving beyond doubt that its signature packaging products are certified compostable. Earthcycle will showcase its certified packaging at this year's PMA Fresh Summit International Convention & Exposition, October 24 to 27, 2008 in Orlando, Florida, booth 414.

“Earthcycle has voluntarily put our product to the test,” explains Shannon Boase, President and Founder of Earthcycle Packaging. “ It is important that when we state that our product is sustainable and environmentally sound that we have the data to support such claims. DIN CERTCO is a globally-recognized certification for compostability, which ensures increased consumer awareness coupled with the reduction of the amount of packaging waste going into landfills.”

In order to achieve certification by DIN CERTCO, Earthcycle packaging's materials, intermediates and additives were exhaustively tested in four different areas:

- Chemical Testing (test for heavy metals)
- Complete biodegradation
- Disintegration under compost conditions
- Ecological Testing (plant toxicity)

The procedures for testing complete biodegradation in the laboratory and disintegration under compost conditions ensure that materials are completely degraded during one process cycle of a standard composting plant. Products can be made from registered materials, semi-finished products or additives that are registered with DIN CERTCO without the need for any further comprehensive tests. Once a product reaches the marketplace, random samples are purchased on a regular basis, these are subject to spectral testing to ensure continuing compliance.

In addition to ensuring compostability, DIN CERTCO certification enables biologically degradable products to be identified by way of clear labeling. The compostability mark serves to inform both waste consumers and disposers. Also, when displayed, Earthcycle must bear the inscription 'compostable' as well as the registration number assigned to it during the certification process.

An invited guest speaker at this year's Fresh Summit, Ms. Boase will present at the Workshop Series titled 'Packaging with Impact' to be held on the morning of October 25.

"I am honoured to be a part of Fresh Summit's Workshop Series – 'Packaging with Impact'," said Boase. "As Founder of Earthcycle Packaging, I feel passionately that packaging must do more than protect a product or extend its shelf life. In addition to all its practical functions, packaging must demand attention and create an impact with consumers."

Made from a renewable resource called palm fiber, a waste product discarded when the palm fruit is harvested throughout the year for its oil, Earthcycle's home compostable packaging is a natural product that complies with FDA requirements for contact with food, turning into healthy, productive humus for the soil in less than 90 days. The raw fiber used in production for Earthcycle is sourced from palm plantations in West Malaysia that have been reviewed against principles and criteria established by the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO). Based on the above, Earthcycle's sources of raw material have not replaced any primary forest nor converted any Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESA) for the purpose of palm oil production.

**Earthcycle products not only comply with FDA requirements for contact with food, the packaging company has also passed American Society for Testing and Materials Standards (ASTM) D6400/D6868, as well as European DIN CERTCO biodegradability and compostability certification tests, the compostability standard for North America. It has further lab documentation attesting to its home compostability. In addition, the Biodegradable Products Institute (BPI) has awarded Earthcycle the BPI compostable logo, which certifies that Earthcycle's packaging will biodegrade completely and safely. Finally, Earthcycle has passed rigorous Biobased Content testing, defined by the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act (FSRIA) of 2002, confirming the materials used to produce its signature packaging line are certifiably renewable.*

About Earthcycle

Earthcycle has used the design brilliance of nature to develop innovative sustainable packaging made from a renewable resource, called palm fiber, which composts in less than 90 days, turning into a healthy contribution to the soil.

Earthcycle's President, Shannon Boase, was first introduced to palm fiber packaging while managing a technology commercialization fund for the Malaysian government from May 2002 to July 2004.

Since its inception in November 2005, Earthcycle's durable packaging has proven to be an innovative and eco-friendly way of reducing the ever-growing packaging crisis that is the chief contributor to North America's mounting waste problem.

Earthcycle's packaging is currently available in select Wal-Mart, Whole Foods, Safeway, Publix, Loblaws, and Trader Joe's, among others.

In October 2007, Earthcycle and the Oppenheimer Group were named the winners of the inaugural Impact Award for Sustainability by the Produce Marketing Association (PMA), which bestowed its first annual Impact Award for Excellence in Produce Packaging at the PMA Fresh Summit International Convention and Exposition.

In March 2007, Earthcycle was also named the winner of the Award for Technology Innovation and Application at the GLOBE awards, part of the EECO 2007 Environment & Energy Conference. And in April 2008, Earthcycle and Innovia Films won the prestigious DuPont Award for Packaging Innovation, recognizing the Earthcycle™-Natureflex™ Organic Kiwi Package.

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For more information on Earthcycle, or to learn how you can get involved, please visit www.earthcycle.com.

For more information on DIN CERTCO certification, please visit www.dincertco.de/en/index.html

For more information on PMA Fresh Summit, please visit <http://show.pma.com/freshsummit/2008/schedule.cfm>

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